

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 17, and 19 have been amended. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 5-16, and 21-23 subject to being amended to independent form. Applicant believes that other pending claims (i.e., claims 1-4, and 17-20) are also in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth below.

II. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-4, AND 17-20 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-4, and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,267,468 ("Torgerson") and U.S. Patent No. 6,254,218 ("Suzuki"). All pending claims are believed to be allowable for at least the following reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The inventions defined in independent claims 1 and 17 relate to a printing device having a print head, and a print head, respectively. Claims 1 and 17 have been amended to further clarify one of the pertinent features of the invention. Specifically, claims 1 and 17 now require that "the pair of nozzle arrays" be "closer to each other than to any other nozzle arrays." For example, in a specific embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 8, the nozzle array on the ink passage 80a, and the nozzle array on the ink passage 80b included in the actuator 91 are "closer to each other than to any other nozzle arrays," such as nozzle arrays included in the actuators 92 and 93.

By contrast, the Torgerson patent fails to teach or suggest the above-identified specific relationship of the pair of nozzles as claimed. Nothing in the Torgerson patent teaches or suggests the claimed pair of nozzle arrays which are closer to each other than to any other nozzle arrays. Fig. 1 of the Torgerson patent shows the inboard ink drop generator groups 62 and 63. However, these groups 62 and 63 receive ink from the same ink feed, and therefore, do not correspond to the claimed pair of nozzle arrays which discharge different inks. Accordingly, the Torgerson patent cannot be said to teach or suggest the above-identified claimed feature.

The Suzuki patent does not cure the deficiencies of the Torgerson patent. As shown in Figs. 1-3, and 5-7, the ink jet nozzles 27 are disposed at the same interval. There is no description in the Suzuki patent that teaches or suggests providing a pair of nozzle arrays which are closer to each other than to any other nozzle arrays as claimed. Therefore, the Suzuki patent cannot be said to make up the deficiencies of the Torgerson patent.

The Examiner's rejections of the dependent claims are respectfully traversed. However, to expedite prosecution, all of these claims will not be argued separately. Other claims each depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 and 17, and therefore, are respectfully submitted to be patentable over cited art for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 17.

For at least the reasons set forth above, the invention defined in independent claims 1 and 17, and their dependent claims is believed to be patentable over the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-843-6200, ext. 245.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



Haruo Yawata
Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

P.O. Box 778
Berkeley, CA 94704-0778
Tel: 510-843-6200, ext. 245